

Meeting Minutes

RAMSEY COUNTY REGIONAL RAILROAD AUTHORITY MEETING

The Ramsey County Regional Railroad Authority met on May 23, 2006 in Council Chambers, Third Floor Courthouse.

MEMBERS PRESENT:           Chair Rafael Ortega  
                                  Commissioner Tony Bennett  
                                  Commissioner Toni Carter  
                                  Commissioner Jim McDonough  
                                  Commissioner Jan Parker  
                                  Commissioner Victoria Reinhardt  
                                  Commissioner Janice Rettman

OTHERS PRESENT:           Joseph Bagnoli, Art Coulson, Kathy DeSpiegelaere, Ken Haider, Julie Kleinschmidt, David MacMillan, Jolly Mangine. Steve Morris, Sarah Penman, Sarah Psick, Nick Riley, Dan Soler, Terry Speiker, Angie Taylor

Chair Ortega called the RCRRRA meeting to order at 10:26 a.m.

**ADMINISTRATIVE AGENDA**

1.     Approve minutes from April 25, 2006 RCRRRA meeting

A motion was made by Commissioner McDonough, seconded by Commissioner Bennett, to approve the minutes from the April 25, 2006 RCRRRA meeting.

Roll call vote was taken:

Ayes – 7, Nays – 0  
Motion accepted.

2.     Ratify Partial Payments No. 26 in the amount of \$11,799.94 and No. 27 in the amount of \$25,946.75 to DMJM+Harris, Inc. for consulting services on the Central Corridor Phase 2 study for February and March 2006

A motion was made by Commissioner Parker, seconded by Commissioner McDonough, to ratify Partial Payments No. 26 in the amount of \$11,799.94 and No. 27 in the amount of \$25,946.75 to DMJM+Harris, Inc. for consulting services on the Central Corridor Phase 2 study for February and March 2006.

Roll call vote was taken; Commissioner Rettman voted no:

Ayes – 6, Nays – 1  
Motion accepted.

WHEREAS, The Ramsey County Regional Railroad Authority has contracted for the professional consulting services of DMJM+Harris, Inc. for the purpose of conducting the Central Corridor Phase 2 study; and

WHEREAS, DMJM+Harris, Inc. has satisfactorily completed portions of the work identified in the referenced agreements, and provided detailed invoice documentation for services and costs accrued through March 31, 2006; and

WHEREAS, submittal of invoices and payment documentation to the Rail Authority for ratification at the next scheduled meeting following staff approval of invoice documentation is required; and

WHEREAS, DMJM+Harris, Inc. Invoice No. 6015115, Partial Payment No. 26, in the amount of \$11,799.94 and Invoice No. 6016347, Partial Payment No. 27, in the amount of \$25,946.75 attachments thereto, provide the correct documentation of payments due DMJM+Harris, Inc. through March 31, 2006; Now, Therefore Be It

RESOLVED, Payment to DMJM+Harris, Inc. in the amount of \$37,746.69 for services rendered through March 31, 2006, is hereby ratified.

3. Ratify Partial Payments No. 6 in the amount of \$1,836.00 to Thompson Coburn for legal services on the Union Depot project and Central Corridor Phase 2 study through February 2006

A motion was made by Commissioner Parker, seconded by Commissioner McDonough, to ratify Partial Payments No. 6 in the amount of \$1,836.00 to Thompson Coburn for legal services on the Union Depot project and Central Corridor Phase 2 study through February 2006.

Roll call vote was taken; Commissioner Rettman voted no:

Ayes – 6, Nays – 1

Motion accepted.

WHEREAS, The Ramsey County Regional Railroad Authority has contracted for professional services of Thompson Coburn for legal services on the Union Depot project and the Central Corridor transit project; and

WHEREAS, Thompson Coburn has satisfactorily completed portions of the work identified in the referenced agreement, and provided detailed invoice documentation for services and costs accrued through March 2006; and

WHEREAS, submittal of invoices and payment documentation to the Rail Authority for ratification at the next scheduled meeting following staff approval of invoice documentation is required; and

WHEREAS, Thompson Coburn Invoice No. 1043652, Partial Payment No. 6 in the amount of \$1,836.00 attachments thereto, provide the correct documentation of payments due Thompson Coburn through March 2006; Now, Therefore Be It

RESOLVED, Payment to Thompson Coburn in the amount of \$1,836.00 for services rendered through March 2006 is hereby ratified.

4. Ratify Partial Payment No. 20 in the amount of \$11,232.72 to Metropolitan Council for professional management services on the Central Corridor Phase 2 study for January 21, 2006 through March 3, 2006

A motion was made by Commissioner Parker, seconded by Commissioner McDonough, to ratify Partial Payment No. 20 in the amount of \$11,232.72 to Metropolitan Council for professional management services on the Central Corridor Phase 2 study for January 21, 2006 through March 3, 2006.

Roll call vote was taken; Commissioner Rettman voted no:

Ayes – 6, Nays – 1

Motion accepted.

WHEREAS, The Ramsey County Regional Railroad Authority has contracted for the professional consulting services of Metropolitan Council for the purpose of conducting the Central Corridor Phase 2 study; and

WHEREAS, Metropolitan Council has satisfactorily completed portions of the work identified in the referenced agreements, and provided detailed invoice documentation for services and costs accrued through March 3, 2006; and

WHEREAS, submittal of invoices and payment documentation to the Rail Authority for ratification at the next scheduled meeting following staff approval of invoice documentation is required; and

WHEREAS, Metropolitan Council Invoice No. NCV-4682, Partial Payment No. 20, in the amount of \$11,232.72 attachments thereto, provide the correct documentation of payments due Metropolitan Council through March 3, 2006; Now, Therefore Be It

RESOLVED, Payment to Metropolitan Council in the amount of \$11,232.72 for services rendered through March 3, 2006, is hereby ratified.

### **POLICY AGENDA**

5. Authorize Chair to execute a contract in an amount no greater than \$1,128,240 with DMJM+Harris for Union Depot project coordination services

A motion was made by Commissioner McDonough, seconded by Commissioner Carter, to authorize the Chair to execute a contract in an amount no greater than \$1,128,240 with DMJM+Harris for Union Depot project coordination services.

Roll call vote was taken:

Ayes – 7, Nays – 0  
Motion accepted.

WHEREAS, Ramsey County Regional Railroad Authority, by resolution R06-27, authorized staff to negotiate a contract with DMJM Harris/AECOM in an amount not to exceed \$1,244,208, for a two year term; Now, Therefore, Be It

RESOLVED, That the Ramsey County Regional Railroad Authority authorizes its Chair to execute a contract with DMJM Harris/AECOM in an amount not to exceed \$1,128,240, for a two year term, for project coordination services for Union Depot multi-modal transit hub.

6. Legislative Update—Joseph Bagnoli and Sarah Psick

Joseph Bagnoli distributed two handouts relating to the most recent legislative session. One document was the language of the transportation bonding bill and the second a summary from the Transportation Alliance, which lays out all of the potential transportation projects and their funding.

Mr. Bagnoli summarized the funding received for Central Corridor (\$7.8M) from a request of \$50M. He also reviewed the bonding bill language, commenting that Gov. Pawlenty requested that the project funding shares follow the Hiawatha and NorthStar projects of one-third local government and two thirds state government for the federal match. Mr. Bagnoli noted that RCRRA will be required to enter an agreement by September 1, 2006 that talks about the operating and capital expenses. Mr. Bagnoli also stated that before the funding is drawn upon, RCRRA, HCRRA and Metropolitan Council will need to sit down to discuss capital and operating costs.

Commissioner Parker requested clarification of rider language pertaining to funding for transit, not to include the metro area. Sarah Psick stated that there was \$16M in the local road improvement program; of the \$16M, \$7.6M is slated for counties outside of the metro area.

Ms Psick noted that the Union Depot received a total of \$3.5M in funding.

Mr. Bagnoli added that the Robert Street busway received \$500,000 for planning, as did the Red Rock Corridor. Mr. Bagnoli noted that Red Rock was not included in any funding requests, so the funding was a welcome surprise. He also commented that the Duluth Depot received \$1.3M, but had requested \$20M for rehabilitation.

7. Central Corridor Update—Steve Morris/Ken Haider/Dan Soler

Steve Morris noted that the first of the four public hearings for the Central Corridor was held the night before, with approximately one hundred people attending the meeting and thirty people making comments. Mr. Morris also commented that the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) has issued updated regulations on the New Starts Criteria; he will provide an overview of the updates at a future meeting.

Mr. Morris presented Dan Soler and Ken Haider, from the St. Paul Public Works Department, to give an overview of the Snelling/University Avenue study. Mr. Soler outlined the study parameters, which were to look at alternatives to alleviate congestion at the intersection of University and Snelling, with or without light rail and analyze the impacts on traffic. Some of the alternatives reviewed were (1) widening of the road; (2) relocating turning movements; (3) relocating half of University Avenue on a one-way pair alignment; (4) building in a roundabout near the intersection. Mr. Soler noted that each of the alternatives was reviewed with and without LRT on University Avenue as well as relocating LRT to the south of University Avenue.

Mr. Soler stated the alternatives reviewed were narrowed down to three alternatives. The three alternatives are (1) Grade Separation Alternative, where Snelling and University Avenues are separated from each other by a tunnel or a bridge; (2) One-Way Pair, which would leave one direction of University Avenue where it is and relocate the other direction of University somewhere off of that alignment; and (3) Quadrant Relocation, which takes turning movement traffic and diverts them on either one, two, three or all four quadrants.

Commissioner Ortega requested a synopsis of all three alternatives, along with the next steps and a timeline, for the next Rail Authority meeting.

Commissioner Parker requested that safe pedestrian crossing be addressed in each of the three alternatives.

8. Central Corridor preliminary engineering issues—Kathy DeSpiegelaere

Kathy DeSpiegelaere introduced a resolution that provided a method for the Ramsey County Regional Railroad Authority to inform the Metropolitan Council of issues concerning the Central Corridor project design into preliminary engineering.

Commissioner Carter requested the following item be added to the list attributed to RCRRA: Impact of the transit project on clusters of low income and transit dependent people within the Central Corridor.

A motion was made by Commissioner McDonough, seconded by Commissioner Reinhardt, to provide the Metropolitan Council with a list of issues relating to the Central Corridor preliminary engineering stage, as amended, to indicate the source of the lists.

Roll call vote was taken:

Ayes – 7, Nays – 0  
Motion accepted.

WHEREAS, Ramsey County Regional Railroad Authority is a participant in the development of the Central Corridor transit improvement; and

WHEREAS, As Ramsey County Regional Railroad Authority wholeheartedly approves of the project implementation; and

WHEREAS, Ramsey County Regional Railroad Authority is aware that there remain many issues to be resolved relating to the Central Corridor project as it moves to the preliminary engineering phase of work; Now, Therefore, Be It

RESOLVED, That as the Central Corridor project design proceeds into preliminary engineering, the following (Attachment 1) are issues that Ramsey County Regional Railroad Authority requests the Metropolitan Council to examine during that process, along with other issues that come to our attention before and during the preliminary engineering process; and Be It Further

RESOLVED, That as the Central Corridor project design proceeds into preliminary engineering, each Ramsey County Regional Railroad Authority Commissioner may also request the Metropolitan Council to examine their individual issues (Attachment 2, Commissioner Janice Rettman), and Be It Further

RESOLVED, That Ramsey County Regional Railroad Authority offers to assist the Metropolitan Council in finding solutions to problems and exploring opportunities to make the Central Corridor transit project one that will be a showcase for the state, and will benefit regional and local businesses, employees and residents.

The meeting adjourned at 11:40 a.m.